

I described as flying seawards late during the afternoon at Prawle Point on September 28th.

At Prawle Point, there was atrocious weather throughout September 29th and 30th which must have prevented any movement, but many observers have failed to gain any sightings since. This rather suggests that any remaining specimens perished. By contrast, in the Isles of Scilly, some specimens remained for many days, three in particular being reported as favouring a certain lane verged by some American nectar-bearing flowers; here, the butterflies were to be seen flying to and fro quite frequently. Finally, on October 13th near St. Mary's Airport, Isles of Scilly, a Mr. John Randell watched a Monarch clinging to a pine tree where it was imbibing resin. Several observers have since told me that this group of Monterey pines became a roost for the Monarchs, where they took up hanging positions, but embarked on flights during bright days. [This suggests similar behaviour to that of the butterfly in Central America, and it would be interesting to hear of any reports of it being seen in the Scilly Isles the following spring. — Editor.]

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THE MILKWEED BUTTERFLY (MONARCH): DANAUS PLEXIPPUS L. AND OTHER MIGRANTS IN CORNWALL IN 1981.—The Milkweed butterfly was seen at Nanclédra, near Penzance, on September 25. It was feeding on the flowers of wild fuschia. This was reported to me by Mr. E. M. R. Stimpson, of Ludgvan. The weather has been bad in Cornwall recently, with several storm-force S-SW gales, perhaps indicating an unaided Atlantic crossing?

The Silver Y, *Autographa gamma* L. has been conspicuous by its absence so far. I have seen one Pearly Underwing, *Peridroma saucia* Hbn., and two Dark Swordgrass, *Agrotis ipsilon* Hufn. One of the latter came to m.v.l. on April 10, the other on August 29. About ten Painted Ladies, *Cynthia cardui* L. and a single female Clouded Yellow, *Colias croceus* Geoff. were seen at Penhale near here on August 29.

Since writing the above, there have been various other sightings of the Milkweed in September 1981, details of which have been passed on to me. One or two may have been duplicated, but having taken these into account the following list is probably accurate.

25th: Kynance. Mr. & Mrs. Merrifield.

26th: St. Levan, Nr. Land's End. Mr. Garceau.

27th: Mylor Harbour. ?Mr. Hillier.

28th: Nr. Gorran Haven. Miss Dunn.

Kennack, The Lizard. Miss Crompton.

Loe Pool, Nr. Porthleven.

30th: Duchy Nurseries, Lostwithiel.

?exact date: Ashton, Nr. Helston. Mr. Fairbrass.

?exact date: Scilly Isles. Five reported, whether all were different insects is difficult to ascertain. These evidently coincided with several exciting ornithological rarities.

Flowers noted on which some of these were feeding were montbretia, clover, buddleia and hydrangea. I am grateful to Mrs.

Stella Turk, of the Institute of Cornish Studies, Mr. R. D. Penhallurick, of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, and Mrs. Barbara Garratt, for letting me know about some of these reports. — Dr. F. H. N. SMITH, Turnstones, Perrancoombe, Perranporth, Cornwall TR6 OHX.

THE MONARCH: *DANAUS PLEXIPPUS* L. IN THE ISLE OF MAN. — Yesterday morning while I was working in my garden, a very large butterfly appeared and hovered briefly over a clump of golden rod. A few minutes later it settled on a willow tree before moving northwards over open farmland. I am fairly sure that it was a male. I saw the insect at 10.45 am, and the weather was sunny with a brisk SW wind blowing. The previous night, September 23rd, we had a severe southwesterly gale. — J. HEDGES, Ballakaighen, Castletown, Isle of Man, 25.ix.1981.

*DANAUS PLEXIPPUS* L. IN SUSSEX. — A specimen of this migrant butterfly was sighted by Colonel Searle, at Kingston Gorse, Worthing, W. Sussex, on the 30th September 1981. It apparently settled on some nettles where he watched it for about 2½ minutes. — S. H. CHURCH, 1 Ashpark Cottages, Plaistow, Nr. Billingham, W. Sussex.

*DANAUS PLEXIPPUS* L. IN THE SCILLY ISLES IN 1981. — I had the great pleasure of finding a Monarch (*D. plexippus*) on St. Marys on October 27th. It appeared in good sunshine gliding along a row of young pines — settled, sunning itself for some moments in excellent view — before flying inside a belt of mature 30 foot pines. There was a tear on one hindwing.

I was told of four flying round an apple tree on St. Agnes, on September 26th/27th. This same tree contained a North American Magnolia Warbler at the same time. There were also reports of 'several' flying round pine trees on St. Marys near the airport in early October. — G. T. FOGGITT, Oakdene, Brackenthwaite Lane, Pannal, Harrogate, HG 1PQ.

MIGRANTS AT HIGHCLIFFE ON THE HANTS/DORSET BORDER, 1981. — Two m.v. traps are operated here, one in the garden which is a quarter of a mile from the sea in a sheltered position, and the other on the open cliff top exposed to the South West. So far all the scarcer migrants have been in the garden. A worn male *Rhodometra sacraria* L. on 14.ix.81; single specimens of *Mythimna unipuncta* Haw. on 20.ix, 23.ix, 26.ix, 27.ix, 3.x; and a single *M. vitellina* Hbn. on 3.x.

The numbers for the common migrants have been very small with a maximum of 17 *Autographa gamma* L. on 28.ix, and nine and 11 *Agrotis ipsilon* Hufnagel on 27 and 28.ix. Only two *Peridroma saucia* Hb. on 28.ix and one on 29.ix. The only migrant butterfly has been *Vanessa atalanta* L. which first appeared on 11.ix, with small numbers coming in from the sea on most days since with no real peak. — E. H. WILD, 7 Abbots Close, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset, 4.x.1981.